(a) whether it is a fact that cost of production of Urea Producing Units will come down by using gas in place of Naphtha as fuel;

(b) if so, to what extent the cost of production is estimated to be decreased; and

(c) extent to which the annual savings are assessed to be accrued following the decrease in cost of production assuming the existing production capacity as basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Switchover of non-gas based urea units to Natural Gas (NGVLiquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will result in substantial savings in the subsidy on account of cost of feedstock and resultant energy savings. The exact quantum of the savings will depend on the delivered price of NG/LNG and its quality in terms of its composition.

Animal disease

379. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of dreaded animals disease foot and mouth have been reported from periphery of reserve forest of Corbett National Park;

(b) if so the number of cases reported so far;

(c) the effective steps taken to avert spreading of disease; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Incidence of foot and mount disease have been reported only in few livestock in the peripheral Kalagarh area of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. To prevent spread of this disease, the management has resorted to prophylactic immunization of livestock in the area.